CII's suggestions on textiles

2932. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CII has urged the Government to give special attention to textiles;

(b) if so, what are the suggestions given by the CII in this regard;

(c) how many of its suggestions have been accepted; and

(d) what are the steps being taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) and (b) CII has, from time to time, made several suggestions for resurgence of textile industries. These suggestions pertain to rationalisation of fiscal duty structure—reduction in excise duty, completion of CENVAT chain, removal of exemptions, reduction in customs duty on textile machinery, etc. Besides, keeping in mind the need for flexibility in labour laws, the CII has also made suggestions for labour reforms.

(c) and (d) The process of rationalisation of duty structure initiated by the Government in the past has been continued in the Budget 2003-04. Excise duty on almost all the items of the textile sector has been reduced; a large number of excise exemptions withdrawn and CENVAT chain completed; and customs duty on specified textile machinery reduced, etc.

Protectionism in textiles by the EU and US

2933. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India together with 16 other developing countries including China has joined hands to fight the protectionism being practised by the EU and US in the area of textiles;

(b) if so, whether in a joint submission to the negotiating group of rules of the WTO, the countries have sought protection from unjustified recourse to trade remedy actions;